

UPTON NEWS

May 2008

Vol 3 No. 15

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

4 May - Please note there is a combined service at North Moreton at 10.30 - no service in Upton
11 May - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist. We look forward to welcoming Fr Jason to St Mary's. This will be his first service at St Mary's. It would be lovely if the church could be full to capacity on this day.

18 May - 10.00 a.m. - Family Service - all ages welcome

25 May - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist.

Fr Jason St John Nicholle is being installed as Rector of the Churn Benefice, by the Bishop of Oxford, on 2nd May. We look forward to welcoming him and his wife Maranda to the Benefice and especially to Upton.

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

4 May Rev. Stephen Hinds

11 May Peter Hemmings

Blewbury Methodists joining us

18 May Ruth Price

25 May Rev. Brenda Woods

At Blewbury Methodist Church 10.30am

UVHAT 50 CLUB

50's Club winners for March 2008

£25 Mrs Telling 47

£25 Mr Simpson 17

£10 Mrs Potter 52

£7 Mrs Fitchet 79

£5 Ms Shaw 129

£4 Mr Hawkins 11

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

These are proving very popular and if you have been toying with the idea of coming along, then please do. It's good to see new faces. If anybody has a mobility problem please give me a ring as we might be able to help.

The next three sessions are scheduled for the following Thursdays:

1 May – 15 May and the 29 May - 10.30 until 12.00 noon.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 1 May.

Yvonne Collins

01235 850989

OPEN GARDENS

Following the huge success of the first event in 2005, Upton is to hold another Open Gardens afternoon on Sunday 29th June from 2-6pm. Admission will be £4 per person and all money raised will be going to the extension of the Village Hall. As well as the gardens there will be plant sales, refreshments and musical entertainment on offer, making this an ideal summer afternoon out.

In order to make this event successful we need people on the day to man the gardens, car parks and help on the tea stalls, take cuttings now so that the plant sales are bursting with tempting offerings or perhaps you have some spare pots you could give so that others can take cuttings? If you are able to help in any way please contact Sarah Sayers, sarahpsayers@btinternet.com or 851450 to let her know how.

PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for Upton was held in the Village Hall on 8th April, 20 parishioners attended.

Reports were given by the County Councillor, the District Councillor and by the Chairman of the Parish Council with Q and A sessions following each report.

Other reports were received and made available from Neighbourhood Watch, Blewbury School Governors, Parish Transport and Footpaths Representative, St Mary's Parochial Church Council and the United Charities for Local Parishes.

The Plans for the extension of the Village Hall were tabled and discussed as well as the proposals for raising the necessary finance. In his closing remarks the Chairman of the Parish Council thanked the other members of the council and the Parish Clerk for their efforts during the past year. He also thanked all those who had provided the annual reports for the meeting and a host of other parishioners who have done and are doing so much to make the life of their neighbours and other members of the community more pleasurable. In particular he paid tribute to Jessie and Tony West for all the work they do both for the Church and for the Village Hall and to Peter and Juliet Gardiner for their work on the Transport Committee and for their efforts in keeping the village and its footpaths free of litter.

All the reports can be seen on the website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th May at 8.00 in the Village Hall

ARTWEEKS

The South Oxfordshire area launches the festival this year with open studios and exhibitions from Sat. 3rd May to Sun. 11th May. Opening times are 12 to 6pm, with some sites opening late on Thursdays until 8pm. Check individual opening times with the free Artweeks guide, obtainable from tourist information, libraries, Savages and Upton & Blewbury post offices. The guide can also be viewed and

downloaded at www.artweeks.org. Joan Durbin has produced an A4 art trail map of open studios covering 7 sites from Chilton, Upton, West Hagbourne, Didcot, East Hagbourne and Blewbury. Copies can be picked up from participating sites, of which there are several in the immediate area, covering a range of media. Upton has 2 sites, with Joan Durbin exhibiting about 40 paintings in acrylic, watercolour and pastel, as well as artist's cards for sale. Please note her studio is closed on the Tues. Wed. and Thurs. this year. Sidney Hardwick has pottery, including her wash hand basins. The Vale and Downland museum in Wantage has a non-selling "South Area Taster Exhibition" from 29th April to 9th May, where you can see examples of the mixed work from about 28 exhibiting artists. There will be sculpture, textiles, jewellery, stained glass, ceramics as well as paintings.

Joan Durbin

VILLAGE HALL

Many of you will know that the size of our village hall restricts the use that can be made of it and that proposals for improvements form part of the Village Plan. Several of the groups using the hall would welcome the extra space. It would also allow for additional activities to be introduced – such as short mat bowls.

Plans have now been approved and the total cost is likely to be about £114,000.

The good news is that most of this can probably be met from money already set aside and grants from local authorities and other bodies. However, we will need to raise *more money locally* if we are to have sufficient to go ahead.

Within the next fortnight we will be sending a letter to each household in the village explaining the situation and *encouraging involvement in bringing this scheme to fruition*.

Jessie West
Chairman, Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next meeting of the Upton Ladies Coven will be Thursday 1st May in the George and Dragon at the usual time of 8.00pm. Everyone welcome

TENNIS CLUB

There is lots going on with Blewbury Tennis Club now we are coming into the Spring and Summer months and the better weather is here (we're also optimists at the Tennis Club!).

The new membership year is almost upon us, the rates this year are £18 for Juniors, £25 for Young Persons, £48 for Adults and £78 for a Family. If you pay your subs prior to 2 May you will be entered into the draw for the club's allocation of Wimbledon tickets. If you enjoy tennis at any level but are not already a member, please consider joining us, we are always delighted to welcome new members.

Contact Sarah Sayers (851450 or sarahpsayers@btinternet.com) for a subscription form. If you are a member or thinking of joining, come and meet us on Bank Holiday **Monday 5th May** from 2.30 when the courts will be open to all. We are a friendly club with four courts (two are newly resurfaced), with players of all standards from Blewbury, Upton and all the surrounding villages, coaching is available and there is lots of competitive, social and Junior tennis and varied non tennis related social events. More details of these are below.

Club sessions are, all year round, on Sunday mornings (mixed) at 10.30am, Wednesdays at 9.15am (ladies) and during the summer on Wednesdays at 6.30pm (mixed). No need for a partner, just turn up and play. The Club's doubles tournaments (one each for mixed, ladies and men) will once again run over the summer months with Finals day on Sunday 14th September. Please use the membership form to enter or contact fiona.betts@btopenworld.com.

For Juniors, there will be a summer camp, starting on 21st July run by Jason Harrison, an

LTA licenced tennis coach. More details can be obtained from Jason@harrisentennis.com

The Bucks Fizz Women's Doubles Charity Tournament is taking place on Wednesday 14 May. This is a very enjoyable day with tennis and lunch being offered. It is open to non members and has become a must do event on the Oxfordshire tennis calendar. There are currently a few spaces remaining, please contact Lindy Farrell on 850275 if you are interested.

The first ever Inter-Village tournament is planned for **Sunday 15th June**. The tennis club are inviting Blewbury, the Astons, the Moretons & Brightwell, Upton & Chilton to put forward teams and the objective is to have a day of good competitive tennis with a BBQ and a few drinks. Supporters are very welcome and the start is likely to be around 2pm. We are looking for people to play for the Upton / Chilton team so if you are a secret Federer or Sharapova please contact Sarah Sayers (851450 or sarahpsayers@btinternet.com).

Due to popular demand, we are holding another Progressive Supper on **Saturday 7th June** at 7.30pm. This year's Progressive Supper will take the same format as previous highly successful ones. Your starter and main course will each be at a different venue in Blewbury and then everyone will meet for pudding and coffee at a secret location. All participants host a course or provide a pudding. Please contact Jenny Craig, 851055, jcraig.tst@btinternet.com to get your entry forms, tickets are £10 each.

TIDDLYWINKS

Calling all Mums, Dads, Grannies and Granddads with preschoolers. Friday mornings 9.30 - 10.30 in the Village Hall is the place to be. Come and join us as we attempt to make play dough, smoothies and create mini masterpieces with our kids!! Not forgetting the gossip, cups of tea, biscuits and other essentials!!

If you need any info you can give Lindsay Lott a ring on 851222 or just turn up.

UPTON VILLAGE THEATRE GROUP

I have been able to reserve 16 seats in the second and third rows of the circle at Milton Keynes Theatre for

Glyndebourne on Tour

The Magic Flute

on Tuesday 18 November at 7.15 pm

Group rate tickets cost £45 each, and if I can secure a minibus again - which I think would be preferred - I would expect to add perhaps another £10 or so.

The committee has been looking out for this show for a long time so we hope it proves very worthwhile. Please pay me as soon as you can and thus secure your seat.

All tickets for "Joseph" and Sonning are now taken, I'm glad to announce, but I am prepared to put anyone who wants on a reserve list.

Malcolm Wright (01235 850705)

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

Our next talk is on Wednesday 7th May, at UPTON Methodist hall, 7.30pm, when David Day will give us a talk on "Small Gardens – The Pendon Museum", now I don't know about you, but there are times when I wish my lawn was as easy to cut as the miniature gardens would be, astro turf all the way! However, if anyone needs a lift, then let me know and I will arrange one for you (850219).

Our next treat is on Saturday 7th June, when a small group of us will be going to RHS Wisley, coach cost will be £15, entrance free, as we are an affiliated group. Names to Maggie or Austin on 850364 please, spaces are limited, and names on the board at the next talk will be taken first! Members only though, join now! Available at the post offices or a committee member, or ring any number mentioned here!

So my fellow gardeners are complaining about the weather, the ground is too wet to prepare in the vegetable patch, too windy to prune things, too cold in the greenhouse, last year we were

complaining about too little rain! We can't win! My garden is also slow to start off, when the weather warms up, so will I!

Don't forget that as members you can hire tools etc, ring Joyce on 850388.

Happy gardening
Karen Brooks

WINE CLUB

The Wines of Bordeaux by Simon Powell

The wine club met again on the 16th of April, the presentation was by one of our very own, the knowledgeable Simon Powell, presenting a small tour, on the Wines of Bordeaux. As usual the assembled gathering waited in anticipation, for the first glass and always sad to see the last glass.

We tasted 9 wines, 3 whites and 6 reds, all of them available from the Wine Society and all of them interesting. The Bordeaux region consists of 4 main areas from the Medoc and Graves on the left bank, Entre-Deux -Mer, and Pomerol on the right bank, thus we were able to compare the various areas. The reds were mainly a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot, the more Merlot the less tannin, and depending on individual taste, people decided on their favourite.

The evening progressed well and as usual everyone enjoyed themselves, the nice experience of this evening was that we were able to taste some very expensive wines which many of us would perhaps not risk raiding the piggy bank for, a very enlightening experience. Simon posed an interesting question would you pay £26 for a wine from an exclusive vineyard in Bordeaux or would you be happier with a less expensive red from say Chile or Argentina, possessing very similar qualities? Individuals make their own choices. My personal favourite being the last wine, the Sauterne, absolutely stunning.

Thanks again to Simon for a wonderful evening and raising some very interesting questions.

Chris Traynor

GEORGE AND DRAGON

Hello Upton! How are we all? Are you all feeling cheerful from the pleasant anticipation of summer? Sorry we're so perky. All this sunshine must be getting into our heads! We can't help it. The nice weather of late is definitely bringing people out and into the pub. Summer has definitely arrived and it's busy times ahead for the George and Dragon!

If you were not in the pub on St. George's Day then you missed a special day indeed! The sights and sounds of the combined 17th Century Vale Islanders and Old Speckled Hen Mixed Morris truly brought meaning to the homage of England's patron saint. They danced in the carpark until sundown and then moved into the pub to play more music and sing some very old songs! Sitting down in their period costumes with their leather tankards made the pub look like it was a scene straight out of Robin Hood's time! Thanks to all who came for the celebration. With so many pubs complaining with the lack of support from their locals, I can't help but feel pride when I looked around last night and there they are - Upton folks!

Merry month of May is upon us. Hopefully the bank holiday of the 26th will be better this year because we're planning a barbeque in the garden, weather permitting! Nearer the day, we will advertise for other fun things we will have on the day for the children.

Finally, as it's getting busier during dining hours, please book a table if you're planning to have a meal. We could only do so many numbers every mealtime and we are not happy when we run out of slots for our locals and best regulars. As always, thank you for your custom. See you at the pub!

UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

If you would like to be included in the May delivery please let me know by Sat 10th May. Colin Batchelor (851362)

BUS SERVICE

Following a review of its subsidised bus routes, Oxfordshire County Council has decided to retain the service 94/95 that serves this village. The revised service, which will be subject to some time and route changes, will be operated from 1st June by Heyfordian.

DIARY DATES

The Old Vicarage Care Home in Moulsoford is having its annual May Fair on **Saturday 17 May**, 10.30 – 12.00.

There will be stalls, tombola, refreshments and much more. Entrance £1 to include coffee and shortbread. Please come and support us.

Badminton Coaching

Downlands Badminton Club are holding adult coaching sessions for beginners 7.30 – 8.30 and improvers 8.30 – 9.45 starting **Monday 12 May** for six weeks at the Downlands Sports Centre, Compton, cost £30.00. For further information contact Keith Parsons on 01635 202925

Summer Fair

A Summer Fair is being held on **Tuesday 13th May** from 10.00 - 3.30 at Steventon Village Hall in aid of See Saw a charity that gives grief support to the young people of Oxfordshire. Over 30 stallholders will be selling items for the house and garden as well as food, clothes, jewellery, handbags and educational toys. 10% of all takings will go to the charity.

There will also be a Busy Baskets demonstration, a silent promises auction, a raffle and light lunches.

Entrance fee £3. More details from Hilary Powell 850268 or on

www.seesawsummerfair.org.uk

Items for inclusion in the June issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com. or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Monday May 26th

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Funds raised so far in 2008
towards the village hall extension

February:

Jumble Sale ----- £300

March:

Touring Theatre ----- £140

April:

Sponsorship from UKAEA
Culham Division ----- £300

Skittles & Supper evening ----- £345

Total £1085

